

Louisiana Documentary Law Stamps Cut Out Designs

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The Rev-Perfs project has been discovering a lot of cut out (punch) designs in revenue stamps. Most of them have been found in the stamps used by stockbrokers. So far, we have documented about 400 different designs and we plan to include them in the final catalog. They will be included with the cut out letter and number designs in a separate catalog section.

With the help of Club members and members of the State Revenue Society we have been able to document an interesting series of cut out designs that are only found in Louisiana documentary law stamps. The state issued the stamps in 1880 and discontinued them in 1897. They issued seven documentary stamps in different colors in denominations from five cents to five dollars with portraits of Louisiana Governor Wiltz on the cent values and Chief Justice Bennudez on the dollar values. Many state revenue collectors place a high value on a complete collection of these stamps.



The stamps were mainly used in the Orleans Parish in Louisiana that was a complex of state governmental offices. I've found these stamps on mortgages, deeds and court documents. To date, we have discovered thirty-three different perf designs in these stamps. It seems that all the important people who worked in the Louisiana Orleans Parish governmental courts and offices had their own perforator. All the examples of these cut outs that we have seen only had one design type in each stamp.

1 C	2 L	3 M M M
4 V	5 ●	6 ■ ■
7 • •	8 ♦	9 ■
10 F	11 ▲	12 •
13 † †	14 ■	15 ♦ ♦
16 *	17 *	18 *
19 ●	20 ● ●	21 ● ●
22 †	23 + +	24 ‡
25 →	26 ♥ ♥	27 ■
28 ■ ■	29 ▲	30 ● ●
31 ● ●	32 ♠	33 ● ●

Jack Brandt (LMI4) submitted the only example of two different designs in the same stamp. This is a

rare perf. There must have been two different lawyers working on the same legal problem.



If you have copies of these stamps please check them for cut out designs that we haven't shown. Designs 16, 17 and 18 were found in an e-Bay auction and we need exact copies of them. A

complete collection of these cut out designs should be a nice addition to ones collection of perfs.

While looking for these cut out designs please check the cut out designs you have in other stamp types. They are common in early state and federal stock transfer stamps. They are also found in early documentary and other stamp types. We even found one in a cigarette tax stamp. Study the stamp faces for indications of the users of the perfs. The cancellations on the stamp faces can sometimes reveal a lot of valuable data. Please send me copies of what you discover and we will include the new designs in the final catalog with a credit for your help. My address is on the back cover.
